

Engine Company Positioning At Emergency Incidents

Engine company positioning is addressed in numerous policy documents. Below are a few helpful references to pertinent information:

Auto Fires: Montgomery County PSTA Practical Skills Manual

Ideally position Engine uphill and upwind. Park Engine blocking necessary lanes of traffic in roadway or parking lot to protect crews and pump operator. Park Engine at least 100ft from any Auto fire.

Personal Injury Collisions: MCFRS Policy 24-01 – Appendix P

Trench Collapse and Technical Rescues: MCFRS Policy 24-01 – Appendix J

Natural Gas Emergencies: FRC Policy 25-07 Natural Gas Incident Response

Structure Fires: MCFRS Policy 24-01 – Appendix D

Hazardous Materials Incidents/Un-known Material: 2004 DOT Guide Book

Guide 111, Isolate in all directions 100 meters. For tanker truck fires isolate 800 meters in all directions. Consider your apparatus may be placed back at this distance initially until required action and material identification has been determined by the unit or command officer. If apparatus approaches a tanker truck fire for the purpose of cooling it down to prevent BLEVE, do not approach from the ends. This is the danger area if the tank should explode.

Staging: MCFRS Policy 24-01 – Appendix B

FIREGROUND POSITIONING

A goal on the fireground is to position pumping apparatus in a tactically advantageous location while also using space on the scene efficiently. Special services apparatus, command units, EMS units, and other engine companies must all be able to access the scene. There are endless scenarios Engine drivers may encounter, however attempts should be made to identify problematic areas in the first due and develop a plan before the 3AM working fire. Reach out to surrounding stations and discuss options with other Engine drivers to keep adjoining companies on the same page.

Engine driver/operator positioning considerations:

- ✓ Deployment of attack lines
- ✓ Deployment of fixed master streams
- ✓ Exposure protection or involvement
- ✓ Access to structure/Entry points for hoselines
- ✓ SOP's
- ✓ Water supply options
- ✓ Collapse zone
- ✓ Aerial apparatus access
- ✓ Blocking/Protection of personnel

Consider a hydrant directly in front of the dispatched address. The 1st due engine positioning at a hydrant directly in front of an address on a residential street may block access for other units. The operator needs to consider the following:

What intakes are available on the apparatus? Front, side, rear? Will using one intake block the street with supply line while a different intake leaves the street clear?

From which direction are other apparatus entering the block? Specifically, how can aerial apparatus approach and position?

Will the master stream on the 1st due engine be placed in service? How big is the fire? What would be the target for the master stream, i.e. attached garage, roof, neighboring exposure?

What are the best access points to the structure for the attack lines?





In this example another engine has laid a supply line from a hydrant. The water supply engine has blocked the access for other units by parking perpendicular to the curb. If positioning may take some time, consider connecting the Humat valve and charge the hydrant while getting into position. Some situations may require delaying positioning on the hydrant until units have made their access.



Water supply engine has positioned to avoid blocking the street.

Multi-Family Structures



The hydrant in this photo sits directly in front of the structure of origin.



If the engine elects this hydrant as their water supply, then the aerial may have restricted access.



Consider driving past the hydrant to facilitate aerial access to the structure. Use short lengths of hose to make your hydrant connections (consider using a "heavy water" hook-up) Drivers should be well versed in the use of various adapters.





Another option would be to allow the aerial to respond ahead of the engine thus allowing for optimum positioning. The engine can still make their connections from the rear of the aerial and have access to deploy attack lines.



Leave a space cushion behind the aerial to facilitate the removal of ground ladders.



Engine placement has a major impact upon aerial placement and the optimum scrub area provided.

Remember, your apparatus position will have an impact on other units.